

Arms and Athanasius

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wisely. Tolerance was not properly understood in the fourth century. The outward peace lasted little more than two years. Unfortunately, we are almost entirely in the dark as to what took place during that time, beyond the certain fact of the recall of Arius, Eusebius, and Theognis. Arius had been banished to Galatia; and we read of the sentence being partially recalled, and the only embargo placed upon his freedom of movement was that he was forbidden to return to Alexandria. Did this take place before the recall of Eusebius and Theognis? Socrates gives the text of a strange letter written by these prelates to the principal bishops of the Church, which they definitely say that, inasmuch as Arius had been recalled from exile, they hope the bishops will use their influence with the Emperor on their

After closely studying the question of the Homoion/* they say, "we are wholly intent on preserving *CQ* and we have been seduced by no heresy. We subscribed to the Creed, after suggesting what we thought best for the Church, but we refused to sign the anathema, because we had no fault to find with the Creed, because we did not consider Arius to be what he represented as being. The letters we had received from him and the discourses we had heard turn do not compel *in* to form a totally different estimate of character/*

The authenticity of this letter has been sharply questioned, for there is no other scrap of